Senators Learn Tricks Of Union-Breaking, Southern Style

By BETSY BILANOW

WASHINGTON (LPA)—Union-busting employers who take anti-union workers into their confidence, better be good to them afterwards.

That's one of the morals that could be drawn from testimony given at a Senate labor-management subcommittee investigation of the Textile industry in the south. The subcommittee is looking into charges brought by Textile Workers Union of America (CIO) that management tactics at the Anchor-Rome mill, Rome, Ga., destroyed the union there. The Senate group is considering the Georgia incident and others with an eye to recommending legislation.

William B. Sword, a former employe of the Anchor Rome mill, told how he broke windows during a 1948 strike under orders to make the damage look like labor-union violence. Sword worked at the mill for 15 years. He has never been a union member. At the time of the strike he continued to work in the mill.

Sword testified that T. H. Holcomb, plant superintendent, "told me to go up there and knock out eight or ten lights, and dont' let anyone see you." Sword said he broke windows, under the same orders. Committee aide Thomas Shroyer, a Republican hack, tried to discredit Sword's testimony by pointing out that he was fired last June. Sword said he was fired "for drinking a bottle of beer." The witness obviously was indignant about it. "Mr. Holcomb got drunk and goes down to the picket line and shoots people. It's all right for him to do that," he declared. "But I drink one bottle of beer and get laid off."

His testimony, however, checked exactly with that of other witnesses, including William Shiflett, who was president of the local at the time of the strike. Shiflett had told the committee earlier that he saw the windows knocked out by someone inside the mill, and a policeman who was nearby confirmed it.

"That was the evening the Governor was in town," Shiflett said. "The company reported that the union was shooting out lights. Next morning they had the Governor at the plant showing him knocked-out windows."

Sword also told about a meeting where Frank Constangy, attorney for the company, declared he "didn't know whether he'd beat the union, but he'd starve 'em to death. He'd keep 'em in court five years."

W. B. Terhune, a city detective in Rome, reluctantly testified about pistol permits issued to employes during the strike period. There were 43 permits issued between March 12 and April 5, he said, but wouldn't venture an opinion as to whether that was "an unusual number." He agreed that the pistols contributed to strike violence.

Terhune also told, under pressure, how he had returned a $1000 reward for the arrest of the person who shot William T. Brock, a scab. (The union had testified the day before that both the company and the press lost all interest in bringing the culprit to justice when they discovered another non-striker, Quinton Dempsey, had shot Brock by mistake.)

The detective returned the money, he said, because his bosses, the mayor and city officials told him to. Anchor-Rome, Terhune testified, is a heavy taxpayer. "You know how small towns are," he told the committee. "I have to have a job. 'Stead of losing my job I'd rather give $1000 back."

Repeated instances of violence were described by witnesses at the hearing. One of these, as told by Joe D. Pedigo, an employe of the CIO Textile Union, described how the Personnel Director, plant superintendent, and overseers led about 75 or 100 scabs out of the office entrance of the plant armed with sticks, hammers, wrenches, hatchets, blackjacks and other weapons.

They spread over a railroad siding where four workers were picketing, Pedigo related, and waved a switch engine pulling two carloads of cotton to run down the strikers. When this failed, he said, they beat them with hammers and blackjacks. Three of the strikers were women.

Another incident was described by Herman Hyde, a former employe of the company, who was on strike at the time. Hyde told how the plant foreman shot a companion of his, Hubert Wilkie, without provocation, and permanently disabled the man. The foreman shot at him too, Hyde testified, but missed.

Hyde also told the committee how he was unable to get his job back after the strike, and was blacklisted by all the textile plants in the area. Even though they needed weavers, and he had ten years' experience as a weaver, they refused to hire him because he had been on strike at Rome.

"Not a single one of the hundreds of skilled textile workers who participated in this strike has been re-employed," Pedigo had told the committee. "We have been to the NLRB and to the Taft-Hartley act for relief," he declared, "So far, all we have received is such remarks as "Too bad. You got a raw deal. But the company was pretty smart. Constangy has handled it smart."

Newspaper Guild Wins 'Complete Victory' In Strike Against World-Telegram

NEW YORK (LPA) — Representatives of the New York Newspaper Guild and the New York World-Telegram & Sun signed a new two-year contract Aug. 23. The agreement, which ended a 10-week strike by 400 newsmen, was a "complete victory" for the union, according to Thomas J. Murphy, the New York Guild's executive vice-president.

The World-Telegram strike was one of the biggest ever won by a unit of the American Newspaper Guild, union officers believed. They said the new agreement was being hailed by labor leaders as "a great achievement."

What made the Guild victory inevitable was that members of AFL and unaffiliated craft unions refused to cross the newsmen's picketlines, forcing the World-Telegram to suspend publication. Management repeatedly tried to break the strike by persuading the crafts to return. Guildsmen, grateful to the printing trades and other mechanical workers, said they hoped this unity would set a national pattern.

The striking unit approved the new contract by a whopping 270 to 90 the night of Aug. 22. Twenty-four hours earlier the agreement had been ratified by the New York Guild's executive board. Minority opposition was based on the lack of an outright union shop clause, since union and job security was the main Telegram employes said they lived in constant fear of being fierd.

However, the final agreement included a maintenance of membership clause under which all jobs were frozen for the first year. Said Murphy; "I consider the World-Telegram & Sun contract a complete victory for the Guild despite the absence of a full Guild-shop clause. The job freeze of one year to my knowledge is without precedent in strikes in recent American labor history. The Guild also set the highest wage standards for newspapermen on newspapers in the entire country." During the second year dismissals can be only "for good and sufficient cause" and will be subject to arbitration.

Under the new agreement, reporters will start at $50 a week, but must be paid a minimum of $120 after six years. Previous top minimum was $110. Copy boys will start at $30, be raised to 39 after six months. Top minimums for in-between categories are proportionate.

In addition, the World-Telegram granted a general wage increase varying with length of service and rate of pay to be instituted during the two-year period. This year boosts will range from $3.50 to six dollars a week. Next year they'll be from two dollars to $3.50. Employes on the night shift will draw an extra dollar a shift, while those on the "lobster" shift will be paid two dollars.

Paid holidays were increased from six to eight, vacations were improved for veteran employes and full credit will be given for time spent in military service. Strikers and mechanical employes were being called back on a staggered schedule which would put everybody at work by Aug. 28.

The strike began in mid-June after several months of fruitless negotiations. The settlement was reached in a 15-hour session called by federal mediators.

Power To Achieve Unity Rests With Membership

By KARL F. FELLER
President, United Brewery Workers-CIO

I believe that the power to achieve real, lasting labor unity in America rests with the membership of the labor movement.

There are any number of instances where peace in the labor movement was obtained on a local level long before any definite approach was made to a national understanding on the top levels.

This was because, in many cities, the membership of the local labor unions—recognizing the fact that the only victor in a factional war would be labor's traditional enemies — wisely barred all aspects of factionalism, thereby allowing their full efforts to be devoted toward the true objectives of trade unionism.

It is hardly necessary to point out that in these cities, unity in the labor movement resulted in progress to a degree that could not be achieved in other places where fraternal strife wasted the strength and energies of the unions.

What has been accomplished on these local levels is possible on a national scale as well. An awakened membership, realizing that a union member's interests as a citizen and as a worker are better served through a united labor movement, will see to it that complete and permanent unity is achieved.

Defense Bill Gimmicks Favor Metal Producers

WASHINGTON (LPA) — A harmless-looking two-word amendment to the Defense Production bill, inserted in the Senate version without debate, would forbid the federal government from exploring and developing metal and mineral resources—oil, uranium, or whatever — no matter how lacking in initiative private industry may be. Senators Tom Connally (D, Tex.) and Robert Kerr (D, Okla.) slipped in the provision that the federal government can only "encourage" development of metal and mineral resources. The House bill would allow the government to act directly to develop the resources.

Read The Label When Buying Cheese

WASHINGTON (LPA)—New federal standards for production of cheese are designed to give greater protection to consumers.

The regulations, announced on Aug. 24 by Federal Security Administrator Oscar Ewing require labelling of ingredients, a holding-period of 60 days for cheese not made from pasteurized milk, and covers cheese not regulated previously, including brick, limburger, munster, blue, gorgonzola, and roquefort.

Standards apply to imported as well as domestic cheese, and also processed cheese foods. The Food & Drug Administration urges consumers to read the label when buying cheese.

Said Ewing: "The new labels will inform the purchaser of the exact class of cheese or cheese product in the container. If consumers learn the basic differences in the various types, they can buy intelligently.

"Pasteurized process cheese contains at least 97 per cent cheese—ground, meltered, and packaged in convenient forms.

"Pasteurized process cheese foods are similar to the process cheese but nonfat dried milk solid or drier whey or other non-cheese ingredients have been added.

"Pasteurized process cheese spreads are similar to cheese foods except they contain more water to make them softer. Many of the latter two contain added fruits, vegetables, or meat and are now sold under a variety of distinctive names."

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Medical rates:

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